CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Computer system comprising:
    - a plurality of sub-systems each comprising:
        - a serial interface; and
        - a buffer device coupled with the serial interface for buffering crash data sent by the serial interface having an external serial output;
    - a management controller coupled with the external serial output of the buffer device to retrieve data buffered during a crash.

2. Computer system according to claim 1, wherein each sub-system further comprises:
        - a microcontroller having a memory and a serial input coupled with the serial interface and a serial output;
        - a communication controller;
        - a switch coupled with the serial output, wherein the switch is controlled by the communication controller.

3. Computer system according to claim 1, wherein the serial output is part of a RS232 serial interface.

4. Computer system according to claim 1, wherein the serial output is part of a universal bus serial interface.

5. Computer system according to claim 2, wherein the communication controller is coupled with the management controller through a serial bus.

6. Computer system according to claim 1, wherein the sub-system generates an interrupt signal fed to the management controller.

7. Computer system according to claim 2, wherein the sub-system generates an interrupt signal fed to the communication controller which generates an interrupt signal fed to the management controller and a control signal fed to the microcontroller.

8. Method of operating a computer system comprising a plurality of sub-systems each running independently an operating system and a management controller coupled with the plurality of sub-systems, the method comprising the steps of:
    - upon a system crash outputting a crash dump file through a serial port of the sub-system;
    - buffering the crash dump file;
    - generating a control signal for a management controller;
    - upon request by the management controller coupling the management controller with the sub-system; and
    - transferring the buffered crash dump file to the management controller.

9. Method according to claim 8, wherein the step of generating a control signal includes generating an interrupt signal fed to the management controller.

10. Method according to claim 8, wherein the step of generating a control signal includes sending a command to the management controller through a serial bus.

11. Method according to claim 8, wherein of coupling the management controller with the sub-system includes the step of coupling a serial output of the sub-system with the a serial communication line coupled with the management controller through a switch.

12. Method according to claim 8, wherein of coupling the management controller with the sub-system includes the step of coupling the management controller and the sub-system through a serial bus and sending a command through a serial bus to request transmission of the crash dump file.

13. Computer system comprising:

- a plurality of independent sub-systems each running a operating system that outputs a crash dump through a serial port and generates a control signal upon a system crash;

- a management controller having a control input, a serial bus interface coupled with a communication line, and a serial input;

wherein each sub-system comprises:

- a microcontroller having a control input, a memory, and a serial input port coupled with the serial port and a serial output port;

- a controller unit having a serial bus interface for coupling with the management controller and an input for receiving the control signal and generating an external control signal fed to the control input of the management controller and an output for an internal control signal fed to the microcontroller;

- a switch controlled by the controller unit for coupling the serial output port with the external communication line.

14. Computer system according to claim 12, wherein the control signal and the external control signal are interrupt signals.

15. Computer system according to claim 12, wherein the serial input and output ports are part of a RS232 serial interface.